



FLORIDA UNITED METHODIST
CHILDREN'S HOME

THE HERALD

JANUARY 2015

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Love Celebrating JOY

Peace



Patience

Goodness

Kindness

Gentleness

Faithfulness



Self-Control

God's Power & Love

To empower children and families to experience God's love
as revealed in the ministry of Jesus Christ.

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Becky Dotson

President & CEO



Thank You!

"We give thanks to God always for you all, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ."

I Thessalonians 1:2-3

I would like to express my profound gratitude to all those who helped make 2014 another successful year of ministry at the Florida United Methodist Children's Home. Several major accomplishments reached in 2014 were the dedication of the Madison Youth Ranch, the launch of our on-campus school and the opening of our Heart & Home Resale Shop. In addition to these new endeavors, we begin our 107th year of being a Children's Home and reaching out in Christ's love to those in need.

Your Fifth Sunday Offering support, individual gifts, in-kind support and bequests all work together to allow us to impact the lives of children, youth and families that are facing so many difficult challenges and obstacles. Your gifts come to life by providing our beautiful campus setting, dedicated staff, caring therapists and loving houseparents that daily care for the needs of our children.

We now look forward to a prosperous 2015 filled with the hope of changing young lives with the love of Jesus Christ made real through the work of the Children's Home. Thank you for making a real and lasting difference. May God bless you and keep you in 2015.

Becky H. Dotson

Becky Dotson
President & CEO
Florida United Methodist Children's Home

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



DAY ON CAMPUS...MARCH 21, 2015

SPECIALLY INVITED DISTRICTS:

Atlantic Central ❖ South East

For more information please contact your Local Church Representative or call our Development Office at 386-688-5088. You can also visit our website at www.allchildrenfirst.org

Celebrating New Life

A testimonial given in our chapel by a young girl in our care

Even as a little girl I had a broken heart. I couldn't read, I couldn't count, but I still knew how to hurt. I'd always put on a fake smile and an artificial laugh. I ended up with my clothes packed and I ran away. After I was found with a handful of pills, I found myself in a place called FUMCH. I was terrified, I didn't know what to do or who to trust. I became someone I wasn't, someone I never wanted to be. I began disrespecting other people. I stole. I ran away. I hurt people who I cared about for my own benefit. It took a long time for me to remember the honest, down-to-earth girl I had once been. I finally began to accept help. I met Christ and turned my life over to Him. He saved my downward-spiraling life. Jesus' sacrifice became my life. And now all I can say is praise the Lord who decided He wanted me in His life and in His forever-growing family, His proof to me that I am worthy.



Celebrating Our New School – Aldersgate Academy

CELEBRATING ACADEMIC SUCCESS



The first semester of our new on campus school, Aldersgate Academy, has proven to be a tremendous success. The school is currently intended for 22 residents. The school has three class rooms and a computer lab. The personal attention we can give to each child has allowed residents to improve their GPAs from last year. Also, no young person was suspended for behavior during the first semester. Attendance is stellar and a new enthusiasm for learning has engaged all the students.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

When I started at Aldersgate, I had a hard time with school. I tried to sleep in a lot of my classes, walked out of class, used hurtful language and didn't want to listen. Well honestly I didn't notice it at first but as the school year went on I figured out that God was in the school all the way. What I mean by that is I saw Him in the teachers, the assistants, and the students. Just everywhere you went and everything you did I just felt like it was a blessing to me. The teachers don't judge, don't hate, don't have favorites, they just love and care and want to help you.

This school has made a big change in my life. I make better grades. My grade point average is a 3.75. I have matured in my behavior and my anger. I barely use hurtful language anymore. One of the biggest things this school has shown me is what I want to be when I grow up. I want to be a pastor when I grow up and I think that if it wasn't for my teachers and the people I love and of course GOD I would be lost.

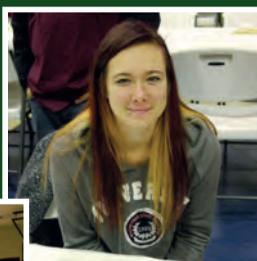
CHILDREN'S HOME CURRENT

SANTA'S WORKSHOP

Our annual Santa's Workshop event on both campuses was a big success. Groups from all over the state come out to host crafts our residents can make and then give to loved ones as gifts for Christmas. It's a day filled with special memories and one of our favorite events of the year. Thank you to all those who attended and gave of their time and resources to provide our residents an opportunity to give something special to those they love.



- ❖ Florida Hospital Fish Memorial
- ❖ Bristol West Insurance Company
- ❖ Community UMC, Casselberry
- ❖ Eastside Baptist Church
- ❖ Venice Nokomis UMC
- ❖ Apopka Woman's Club
- ❖ The Hartford Insurance Company
- ❖ First UMC, Lakeland
- ❖ First UMC, Oviedo
- ❖ Cornerstone Christian Church
- ❖ Community of Hope UMC, Loxahatchee
- ❖ Loustau Family
- ❖ Jon and Diane Donahue
- ❖ Jenna Lacey from Jason's Deli
- ❖ Beth Nelson



BISHOP KEN CARTER LED WORSHIP

We were honored to have Bishop Ken Carter join us for worship and communion. Bishop Carter shared a message that no matter what we are going through, God is with us.

Thank you Bishop!



THANK YOU MARRIOTT

We are grateful to our good friends from Marriott Vacation Properties who gave our residents a wonderful Christmas lunch with Santa.



HAPPENINGS

THANK YOU LOWE'S



We are reaping the benefits from a Lowe's Heroes grant. Living up to its "Never Stop Improving" pledge, more than 15 employees from the Lowe's Orange City store volunteered to help clean and spread three hundred bags of mulch throughout the children's playground inside the Independent Living area on FUMCH's Enterprise campus.



MADISON YOUTH RANCH UPDATE



The stable and horse paddock are under construction and will soon be ready to provide therapy for the young people on campus. We will keep you updated. Thank you to all who support our new campus.

HEART & HOME RESALE SHOP RIBBON CUTTING

The West Volusia Chamber of Commerce joined the Florida United Methodist Children's Home for the official dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony for our new thrift store, called the Heart & Home Resale Shop. When you visit the Children's Home or are visiting the area, please stop by. The Heart and Home Resale Shop is located at 2460-A S. Volusia Ave in Orange City.



WELCOME BACK NOMADS

We once again welcome back the NOMADS to the Children's Home. We appreciate their hard work and dedication. They complete a variety of projects around our campus and help us prepare for Day On Campus. They save the Children's Home considerable staff time and money.

NOMADS is an acronym for Nomads on a Mission Active in Divine Service. NOMADS is a national outreach ministry affiliated with the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church. The NOMADS are always a pleasure to have on campus.



NOMADS working on our chapel window.



Painting in Waller-Jeter Home.

Interview with Houseparents ~ Lisa & Joseph Gunter



Lisa and Joe had a dream about working with abandoned and abused children. At the time, they were living in Maryland and both had great jobs. While on the computer one day, Lisa noticed a job posting for a House Parent position at the Florida United Methodist Children's Home. Three years ago, their dream became a reality when they began their work at the Home as House Parents. They say that their dream of helping children stemmed from their church's prison ministry and bible studies they were part of and that they wanted to be proactive in helping steer children in the right direction and help make sure they did not become part of the criminal justice system.

Lisa and Joe find the work as House Parents to be incredibly meaningful. "We only had one son and now we feel like we have several sons". The children they serve have experienced significant abuse and neglect. "It takes a special person to work with children of abuse. The pain they have gone through truly has taken a toll on their emotions. But it is worth everything we go through to see them at the end of the program feeling confident and whole again." This transformation takes patience, forgiveness, consistency and loving discipline on their part. Lisa loves to treat the children with a big Saturday morning breakfast and gospel music – something the children look forward to each week.

There are challenges in any job and House Parenting is not an exception – helping the children accept a new child coming in and helping them feel part of the family is an example. With the many resources available to them as House Parents, the rewards far outweigh any challenges.

Lisa and Joe say that they can see themselves as House Parents for many more years and that they have found their dream job. "Joe and Lisa's love for the children shines through in their faith they have knowing that God has guided them here to help fulfill His mission of taking care of the least of these", said Becky Dotson, President and CEO of the Children's Home. "They are an inspiration to us all. The Children's Home is truly blessed to have them as part of our family." Joe and Lisa encourage those that have the desire, understanding and compassion for children of abuse to consider being a House Parent. Please inquire for more information about becoming House Parents at the Florida United Methodist Children's Home.



House Parent Positions Available

*Make a
Difference in a
Child's Life*

Do you want to make a difference in a child's life? Then this challenge is for you! Are you a married couple who believes that each child is a gift from God, blessed with unique strengths, talents and abilities, and the potential for positive change?

Do you have a desire to work with and make a difference in the lives of school-age young people by providing daily guidance, supervision, coaching, recreation, and mentoring? Are you interested in learning about and maturing into skilled residential care professionals through training and on-the-job experiences? If so, then you may become a valuable team member in our faith-based, multi-disciplinary, holistic residential program.

We offer challenging work where faith, persistence and patience can lead to dramatic success stories. Our trained House Parent couples share a home with another couple alternating weeks off. Together they provide consistent structure, encouraging messages and supportive relationships to empower youth who are learning to be responsible and successful. The residential care "milieu" is an environment in which life-skills and relating to others are modeled, practiced and polished as young people come to believe in their own abilities surrounded by caring adults.

Learn more about training, certification and house parenting by contacting our HR Department at jobs@fumch.org.

OPPORTUNITIES

Campus Tours are Available



We love giving tours of the Children's Home. We have a beautiful campus 30 minutes north of Orlando. It sits on the shore of Lake Monroe. You can tour as an individual, couple, or arrange for a group from your church to come and learn more about our ministry. It really does make a difference to see the campus first hand and experience the work being done by the Children's Home. All you need to do is call the Children's Home at (386) 668-5088 and let us know the date, time and number of people coming (no Sunday tours). You can also request a tour by going to our website at www.allchildrenfirst.org.

Another Way to Support Us

As you travel, consider booking your hotel through Favorite Hotels Collection. We've had the opportunity to partner with them and if you book your stay using the following link, 5% of the cost will be donated back to the Children's Home. It's an easy way to give back and help change the lives of children while doing the things you are already doing. Just follow this link and have access to over 100,000 hotels in 12,000 locations worldwide:

<http://favoritehotelscollection.com/partners/fumch>



When you shop through Amazon Smile, a portion of your purchase is donated back to the Children's Home. All you have to do is click this link and then shop like you normally do through Amazon.

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/59-0638479>



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THE HERALD

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2015



Fifth Sunday Offerings



March 29, 2015
 May 31, 2015
 August 30, 2015
 November 29, 2015
 Christmas Offering



Please remember the Children's Home

Keep up to date with everything at the Florida United Methodist Children's Home by following us on Social Media.

We are on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and YouTube.



The Florida United Methodist Children's Home does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, veteran status, marital status, or any other status protected by law except where such protected category is a bona fide occupational qualification (BFOQ), to the extent that someone's needs can be addressed and cared for within the scope of program services with the financial resources of the agency.

FUMCH makes services accessible and available for persons with communication challenges. An equal opportunity employer. Pursuant to Section 286.26, Florida Statutes, any disabled person wishing to access services who may be in need of special assistance should contact diana.griffith@fumch.org at least 48 hours in advance of the service or meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please call FUMCH at (386) 668-4850 (TTY) or the Florida Relay Service at (800) 955-8771 (TDD).

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